



In Loving Memory of Dr. Brandson

By REV. S. OLAFSSON

For over 32 years our Betel Old Folks' home has been operated by our Synod as a home for older people of Icelandic nationality. The Board of Directors elected at annual meetings of our Synod are responsible for the actual operation of the home.

During all the years from 1915-1944 until the time of his death, Dr. B. J. Brandson was the president of the Board of Directors. Amidst the pressing duties of a very busy life as a leading physician in a large city, with manifold cares professional and otherwise resting upon his shoulders, Dr. Brandson gave much of his time and thought to Betel, and the old people dwelling there; and always seemed to have time to spare for service on their behalf. This service on behalf of the home and the inmates dwelling there, his direct and indirect influence for the good of the home was both unique and outstanding. The old people were ever in his mind. Next to the last day of his life he spent visiting among the inmates with his family.

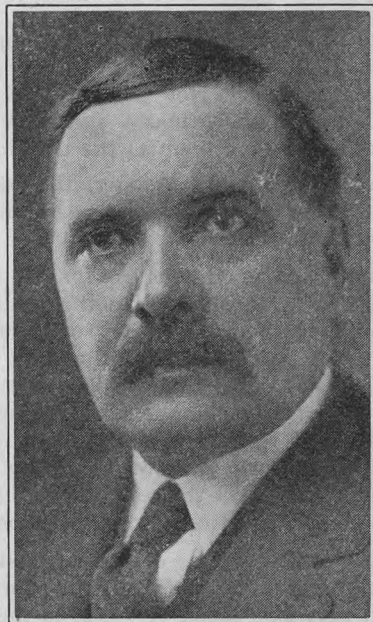
For some time past, the directors of Betel had in mind a plan to commemorate his wonderful service to Betel, by placing some suitable memorial of him in the home. After some thought a bronze memorial tablet was decided on. On the tablet are inscribed his name, dates of birth and death, length of his service rendered as president of the Board of Directors; in a very clear and large type are the Icelandic words:

Hann bar hag hinna öldruðu fyrir
brjósti.

also a quotation from a poem by Gudmundur Gudmundsson:

"Harðfýlginn var hann hverju réttu
máli, hjartað hans mótað gull í kær-
leiksáli".

A brief memorial service was held in the home, on Saturday, August 23rd, under the auspices of the Board of Directors of the home. By a special invitation the family of Dr. Brandson was present, and a few of their intimate



DR. B. J. BRANDSON

friends, whom they had invited. Present were also the inmates of the home, the Directors and their families, as well as representatives of our Synod.

The brief service was conducted in Icelandic by the writer of these lines. Dr. B. H. Olson, secretary of the Board of Directors, paid a

brief and beautiful tribute to Dr. Brandon. The Hon. Mr. Justice H. A. Bergman, a life-long friend of Dr. Brandon, spoke briefly in English. The Rev. E. H. Fafnis, president of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, spoke briefly on behalf of the synod. The unveiling of the

memorial tablet was done by Dean Hillsman, a young grandson of Dr. Brandon.

The service, though brief, was reverential and beautiful—those present honouring the memory of a loved one, benefactor and friend, Dr. B. J. Brandon.

HE SAVES TO THE UTMOST

By Rev. G. GUTTORMSSON

My good friends! I wish this morning to speak to you about the marvelous power and completeness of that redeeming grace which the Word of God ascribes to our Savior Jesus Christ. My text is taken from the Epistle to the Hebrews; from that portion of it where the inspired writer is contrasting the old Levitical priesthood and its imperfections with the perfect eternal priesthood of our Savior. The argument is summed up in the following words:

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him."

This is my text, friends. It is found in Hebrews, the seventh chapter and the 25th verse.

There is a phrase here that demands our attention. It is an emphatic, a striking phrase: "To the uttermost." Not partially or incompletely, but altogether, finally, and forevermore—"He is able to save them to the uttermost."

O great and mighty wonder, that our Redeemer's power to save should be so limitless, so overwhelming!

But now, my good friends, I must remind you that this same phrase, "to the uttermost," occurs once again in the New Testament, and in a very different setting. In the First Epistle to the Thessalonians, the second chapter, St. Paul, speaking of the malicious persecution of our Savior and His gospel carried on by some members of His race, declares that they persist in this evil "to fill up their sins alway; for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."

What a contrast! The oracles of God speak of healing, restoration, redemption to the uttermost, but they also speak of wrath to the uttermost. This should remind us that with our God there are no half measures. For them that accept his loving-kindness there is complete forgiveness; there is "plenteous redemption;" "His mercies are from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him." But for them that hate his righteousness and despise and reject his tender grace there is wrath to the uttermost. In the final reckoning, our Lord does nothing by halves.

In former times some terrifying sermons were preached upon this theme, "Wrath to the uttermost." Now I take no pleasure in preaching fire and brimstone or the worm that dieth not; but in the truth of God, whether we find it in Scripture or in the ways of Providence, there is always present, along with his manifold mercies and his tender pleadings, a sterner note that we simply must not ignore.

That same stern warning is given by Christ himself, even in his very teaching about the forgiveness of sins. You remember the story of the servant who defaulted in a very big sum, and on being found out, cried aloud for mercy. His master had pity on the man and forgave him, not one-fourth, or a half, but the whole debt, every last penny of it. No half measures, you see. Forgiveness to the uttermost. And then that cringing defaulter dealt harshly with a fellow servant who owed **him** a few dollars. Whereupon the master had his servant take that heartless thief by the scruff of the neck, throw him into prison and keep him there until he had paid the last penny. Wrath to the uttermost, you see. Again, no half measures.

This is said to remind us all of the seriousness of the Gospel. As one great hymn poet expresses it in another tongue: "Not to amuse Himself doeth God threaten evildoers; and with Him it is no flippant promise that thou mayest obtain mercy." The grace of God is no asylum for scoundrels. Forgiveness is a balm for the broken and the contrite heart, not a license for you to go and sin some more. "Sin no more", were the Savior's words, remember.

And bearing this in mind, let us return to our subject and consider Him who is able to save to the uttermost.

Often in our modern times this greatest of all human needs, the need for divine help, has not been realized very vividly. Earlier the case was different. Ancient man was keenly aware of his dependence upon the divine. He was conscious of it most of the time. He was helpless in the midst of terrifying, mysterious forces. His life was in constant peril from pestilence, starvation, wild beasts, or human foes. In those

ever-present dangers he felt compelled to cry out constantly for divine protection and deliverance.

All this is very forcefully brought home to us when we consider the meaning of the common verb: "to live", in our northern languages. Originally "to live" meant simply "to be left". You can easily imagine what dreadful conditions gave the word that second meaning; what terrible scourges of famine, flood and war, what pestilence, what constant preying of disease upon old and young, must have forced the two meanings into one word: to live, to be left. Again and again in these primitive ages the survivors were only a small remnant, they were the ones left—the living.

No wonder that man in those far-off times, clinging desperately to a life full of danger and misery, felt the need of divine protection. According to his lights he was extremely religious. He had to be.

All this is radically different in our modern times. Before the last war, and even in the lull before this one, civilized man felt very safe and comfortable. Perils to his life were few and remote; modern inventions waited upon him like a host of slaves and made his life a pleasure. Death receded farther and farther away from youth and middle age. Pain was being defeated by one drug after another.

A natural result was the modern way of thinking with its easy-going optimism which regarded evil as a regrettable defect in the human make-up, and basked in the comfortable belief that all ills would somehow find their cure in the course of time.

No wonder that civilized man in our modern times, with his feeling of comfort and security wrapped around him like a blanket, was apt to delay coming to grips with his own soul or preparing for the future life. There was no hurry. He felt no pressing need for seeking help from the Almighty. He was at ease in Zion. He was religious in a comfortable, dreamy sort of way, and saw no reason for urgency.

But the modern Humpty-Dumpty religion, sitting upon the wall of complacency, was due for a terrific tumble. It should have heeded the Apostle's warning: "When they shall say: Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, even as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall in no wise escape." (1 Thess. 5)

And even so upon this easy-going Pollyanna view of life there descended two catastrophic world wars in close succession, carrying wounds and pain, sorrow, death and desolation in their wake and forcing thousands of human beings to cry to the living God out of the anguish of their hearts.

Today, then, thousands are beginning to re-discover the mighty comforting truth in the words of our text: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him."

But even in the deceptive lull before the storm, in times of comparative ease and quiet, a person's pride and self-confidence is broken again and again by some grief or misfortune or other circumstance that reveals to him his utter helplessness, and, if he has but the sense to understand it, his utter dependence upon help from the Almighty. Then, if he has wisdom, he will learn to say: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." (Ps. 121)

This need is felt when you are helpless under a sense of utter failure and frustration; when life sours on you, when your ambitions tumble about you like a house built upon the sand, or when your spirit is dead within you and refuses to be brought to life again.

Or your health may fail, your strength has left you, or you writhe in pain that cannot be soothed by any or all of our modern opiates. Or you may be facing unbearable grief. Your friend is dead and gone and the awful sense of finality settles upon your soul. All the interchange of love and friendship between you and the loved one is now in the past, as far as this earthly life is concerned. The decree is absolute; it cannot be altered in the slightest. The sense of loss is all you have left. And then your soul instinctively reaches out for some unseen, strong hand to steady and guide and comfort you.

Or again, you yourself may be suddenly staring that old enemy in the face. Mankind will never forget the words of the ancient poet describing peril at sea—a wave descending upon the nimble craft, boisterous under the clouds, tempest-swollen; the whole ship covered with spray; the frightful storm-blast roaring in the sails; and the sailors trembling to their very hearts in fear—"for scarce are they borne from out the impending death."

(Continued Next Month)

LOOKING FORWARD

I am sure that you are all looking forward to reading the conclusion of Rev. Guttormsson's sermon in the next issue. I want the contributors to this magazine also to look forward to October 31, Reformation Day. That is the last day for receiving material for the November issue, i.e., it must then be in my hands. We are making some progress in hearing from congregations who had not written us before. Let everybody respond.

R. MARTEINSSON,
800 Lipton St., Winnipeg, Man.

NOTES from OUR PARISHES

BLAINE-POINT ROBERTS NEWS

Installation of the Rev. Arthur S. Hanson

At very impressive and festive services on August 31, the Rev. Arthur S. Hanson was installed into the Blaine-Point Roberts Parish. The installation at Blaine Lutheran Church was held at 11 a.m. The Rev. Dr. H. Sigmar gave the charge to Mr. Hanson and the Rev. H. S. Sigmar gave the charge to the congregation. Highlights of the service featured the Children's Choir under the direction of Mrs. Alfred Stefansson; a lovely solo by Mrs. Leonard Johnson accompanied by Miss Donna Dodd, and the reading of a letter from the Rev. E. H. Fafnis. After the installing by Dr. H. Sigmar, the new pastor spoke briefly and then pronounced the benediction. One hundred and twenty people were in attendance. A delicious luncheon was served in the parish hall immediately after the service by the Junior Ladies' Aid in honor of the pastor-elect.

The installation at the Point Roberts Trinity Lutheran Church was held in the evening of the same day. Here the Rev. Theodore Hartig of Vancouver gave the charge to Rev. Hanson, and Pastor H. S. Sigmar spoke to the congregation. The forty-four people present heard lovely music rendered. The choir led by Mrs. Davis sang an anthem with a solo by Mrs. L. Thorstenson. Miss Joan Thorstenson sang, "The Lord's Prayer," and Miss Margaret Sigmar of Vancouver offered the "Beatitudes." Dr. H. Sigmar brought greetings, and Pastor Hanson spoke briefly, and then pronounced the benediction. Fellowship was enjoyed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Vopnfjord of South Beach after the service.

The Blaine Luther League motored to Seattle on Sunday, September 7th. The occasion was in acceptance of an invitation from Calvary Lutheran Church, the Rev. H. S. Sigmar, pastor. Rev. Hanson conducted the morning service. The eighteen people who attended were invited out to the homes of the congregation for the noon meal. The afternoon was spent seeing Woodland Park, The University of Washington, and Volunteer Park. The evening was featured by a joint rally of the two youth groups at which Pastor Hanson spoke. The movie on stewardship, "And Now I See," was presented not only to the two leagues but also to Calvary's congregation and two visiting congregations, namely, St. Paul's,

and St. James. Dr. Sigmar conducted an Icelandic service in Blaine on this Sunday.

Sunday School was begun after a summer layoff in Point Roberts on September 14th. Mrs. Arnie Thorstenson is superintendent. The Point Roberts catechetical class started its study on the 15th of September. A rally day was held in Blaine Lutheran Church on September 28. Promotional certificates were given out to the various classes by the teachers in charge. All were given recognition at this special service. Pastor Hanson brought greetings to all present.

A birthday party was given for Mrs. Ella Wells on the 4th of September. Twelve guests brought well wishes to the Blaine Lutheran Church secretary.

Anita Louise, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dickinson, was brought into the Christian faith by Holy Baptism on Sunday, September 21st.



NOTES FROM VANCOUVER

By MRS. ENGA O. SIGURDSON

Rich in hopes and with confidence on all sides, our Fall Season started again and we hear of plans for the winter months from all branches of our church's activities.

On September 7th the Rev. Dr. Sigmar conducted Icelandic services in Blaine in the morning and English services in Vancouver in the evening. A short meeting of the Luther League took place afterwards with the following new officers elected: President, Lloyd Johnson; vice-president, Harold Haralds; secretary, Hazel Sigurdson; treasurer, Gordon Sigurdson; social, Margaret Sigmar.

The retiring president, Herbert Sigurdson was presented with a beautiful fountain pen. The sunny personality of Herbert will be missed from our Church as he left on September 9th by motor for Winnipeg, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Sigurdson and sister Hazel, and hopes to enroll at the University of Manitoba for further medical courses.

From this alive and alert Luther League, so richly endowed with youth and talent, we are expecting big things this season. It is rumored that Mr. Solvason may put on a minstrel show. A jolly sing-song followed the September 18th meeting at the home of Gordon Sigurdson.

Recognizing the increasing importance the Sunday School occupies in our church activities,

it is the wish of the teachers that all parents interested in its welfare should make a sincere effort this year to send their children each Sunday to the classes. At two o'clock each Sunday Dr. and Mrs. Sigmar, Miss Hazel Sigurdson and others are there giving wholeheartedly of their time and talents to make Sunday School interesting and instructive to the little ones. We have only to remember the three outstanding Christmas concerts of the past to appreciate this branch of the church. This is an earnest appeal to the parents: Send your children each Sunday to the Church at 2 p.m. Miss Margaret Sigmar is the new pianist, also a new teacher.

With a very happy spirit the Women's Auxiliary celebrated their third birthday party on September 4th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Sigurdson. Gifts for the Fall Bazaar, two from each member, were opened by Mrs. G. Sanders and admired by all. Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson and Dr. Sigmar spoke briefly, offering congratulations and good wishes from the congregation. Then the trustees and their wives along with Dr. Sigmar served as a "panel" for that popular radio game "Twenty Questions" which created much merriment.

Later two vocal solos were given by Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson, "Invictus" by Bruno Huhn and "Prayer Perfect," which were much enjoyed. He was accompanied by Mr. Stefan Solvason. At the coffee hour Mrs. H. Sigmar and Mrs. S. Brynjolfson poured. The lovely decorated birthday cake, a generous annual gift from Mrs. Jonina Johnston, was cut by the W.A. president, Mrs. Ivan Hambly, while everyone present sang "Happy Birthday to You!"

On Saturday, September 6th, Dr. Sigmar conducted the funeral services for Stefan Petur Arngrimson, who died in an automobile accident on Sunday, August 31st.

It was on September 4th, that Jonas Palsson, the well-known musician, passed to his rest after many months of illness. His wife, Emily, and five daughters survive. Mr. Palsson came from Iceland as a young man and married Miss Emily Baldwinson of Winnipeg, where he spent the longest portion of his life. A gifted pianist, he taught music in Winnipeg, Selkirk, Calgary and New Westminster.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Anderson are very happy to have visiting here for the month of September their daughter Margaret, her husband Lieut. Ronald Legeer, R.C.N., and their three-months old son Richard. They flew here from Halifax.

Mrs. Jonina Johnston left on September 9th for Toronto, to spend two months with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Waller, 14 Coxwell Boulevard. Mrs. Johnston

had a terrifying experience the morning she left, as a burglar entered her suite (at 4.30 a.m.) where she lives alone and attempted to steal her purse. He escaped but left Mrs. Johnston suffering from shock.

The children of Mr. G. F. Gislason of Vancouver enjoyed a family reunion with their father at Shilo, Manitoba, in August. They are Major Harold E. Gislason, commanding officer of the hospital there, and his bride of May; Beatrice, now Mrs. Holmes Boynton, and her husband of Marquette, Mich.; and Thora, now Mrs. H. J. Helgason and her husband and their two-year-old son, of Ottawa. Mr. Gislason later entrained for Regina and flew from there to Vancouver.

Another happy family reunion of much interest took place in Vancouver on September 4th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sumarladason, Drummond Drive, when the latter's father, Mr. Thor Gudmundson, returned to the city having motored here with his daughter Emma and her husband, Mr. F. Jenkins of Benalto, Alta., where he spent the summer. A third daughter, Mrs. W. Lee of Hilliers, B.C., and her husband came over from the Island. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins later holidayed at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, and also enjoyed the sporty coho fishing of Campbell River.

Miss Margaret Sigmar, daughter of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. H. Sigmar, who was operated on in Seattle, for a back injury, is recovering nicely and expects to come to Vancouver soon for a visit.

Mrs. Steve Solvason and her daughter Mrs. G. Gell are in Calgary, guests of Mrs. Solvason's other daughter, Mrs. C. N. Pyne.

Icelandic service on the evening of Sunday, September 14th, was much enjoyed by a large congregation. All seemed to enjoy singing the old well-known favorite Icelandic hymns. Mr. and Mrs. John Hendrickson of Selkirk were there with their son, Mr. Gunther Hendrickson, and Miss Hildur Thorsteinsson of 140 Garfield St., Winnipeg, was there with Mrs. Gales Johnston. Miss Thorsteinsson is spending a two weeks' holiday at the coast.

Off to Los Angeles, where she will study professional costume designing, is Elizabeth Bjarnason, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bjarnason.

The W.A. are anxious to make a gift of money to the Icelandic Old Folks' Home, so will use their efforts in October to raise a goodly sum. Mrs. S. J. Sigmar is convener in charge.

On Monday evening, September 15th, our pastor attended a banquet held at "The Senator" in honor of Dr. Graham, Principal of United

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27

College, Winnipeg, Man. Pastor Sigmar received his honorary degree from that college (his Alma Mater) in 1944.

On Tuesday, September 16th, at the noon hour, the members of the Lutheran Pastoral Association of Vancouver, held a dinner party in honor of Bishop Malmstrom of Denmark, who has been visiting the Danish congregation here for a week. Our pastor was in attendance at this function.

When Dr. Sigmar conducted the third service of September on the 21st, the church was beautifully decorated with white gladioli and large purple asters. During his sermon on the "Miracles of the Bible", our pastor digressed to mention what a sad commentary it was on Canadian life that statistics showed only a very small percentage of our population attended church and Sunday school and added, "We solicit your help in building up our Sunday school."

The soloist on this occasion was Miss Margaret Sigmar, who sang effectively, "The Lord's Prayer."

A well-known visitor who received much attention was Mrs. Flora Julius Benson, of the "Logberg" staff in Winnipeg, who came to church with her daughter Ruth and Mrs. Gales Johnson. Mrs. Benson and her daughter are stopping here at Sylvia Court for five days, on their way home from a visit down the Pacific Coast to Los Angeles. A boat trip to Victoria is part of their plan while there.

NOTES FROM SELKIRK

By VICTOR ERICKSON

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. G. Finnsson was celebrated at their home, Thursday, August 14th, by relatives and others. They were married in Iceland, November 12th, 1895, so they had been married nearly 52 years; but at their actual fiftieth anniversary some of their sons were still in the services, and the celebration was postponed. A delightful time was spent: fine speeches, lovely singing and delicious

refreshments. The honored couple were the recipients of splendid gifts from relatives and other friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Finnsson have been living for a quarter of a century in Selkirk. They have a family of six sons: Grimur of Wynyard, Sask.; John of Flin Flon; Olie in Vancouver; Einar, Oscar and Finnur at home; also a daughter, Mrs. Houde Rolf of Winthorpe, Minn. There are three grandchildren.

* * *

A dear old lady, Mrs. Kristin Johnson, widow of Halldor Johnson, quietly observed her 93rd birthday August 16th. She came to Canada from Iceland 59 years ago and has been living in Selkirk for 30 years. For the past several years she has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Erickson. Her other daughters are: Mrs. J. M. Johnson of Baldur and Mrs. F. Y. Wakefield in Selkirk. There are nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Birthday love came to her in the form of messages and flowers.

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NEWS ITEMS FROM SEATTLE

By MRS. RAY OLASON

Our hearts go out in sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Esther (Hendrickson) Johnson, who died of a heart attack Monday, September 22. The funeral service was held on Friday.

Mrs. Johnson was the daughter of Mrs. Runolfur Johnson and was a member of the Ladies' Aid and of the Church. Surviving are her husband and two children.

The Sunday school will have their annual Fall rally the first Sunday in October. With all the new improvements in facilities they look forward to a good year.

The Women's Relief Committee are accepting contributions from members and friends of the church. To date \$55 have been received. This money will help them to carry on their splendid work in the community.

When someone is hospitalized or bedridden, the committee visits and brings a gift to cheer the one who is ill; someone who is aged and alone is helped by this group; and when trouble or bereavement comes, this committee remembers.

The committee established a Memorial Fund two years ago. The reason for this action was that in connection with the passing of our friends it frequently occurs that an individual or an organization wishes to give something in memory of the departed one. The committee also felt that there are times when there is such an abundance of flowers given that they

would like to have a fund where they could in some other way express the affection of the group. It was decided to make this fund an Organ Memorial.

The committee has placed memorial gifts for the following people who have departed from our midst this year: Kristi Arnason, Thorbjorn Jonsson, Elina Thorsteinson and Esther Johnson.

The choir is now well organized under the direction of Tani Bjornson. The organist, who has been selected for this year is Miss Henrietta Hamilton. The librarian is Elvin Kristjanson. These three constitute the music committee of the choir and are responsible for the selection of new music and the care of it. They are assisted in this by the Executive Committee, who are in charge of the business matters of the choir and its management. This committee consists of Norma Anderson, president; Ray Olason, treasurer; and Mrs. Steve Johnson, secretary.



LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL BY MAIL

What a splendid idea for some of our country districts! Our Icelandic Synod suffers from a deplorable scarcity of ministers. Think of the localities seldom or almost never reached by our pastors. Sunday School by Mail offers one way of helping the children and young people in those places.

This work is sponsored by the Lutheran College of Saskatoon, and is directed by Miss Eleanore L. Gillstrom. She was present at the dedication of our Sunrise Lutheran Camp in 1946, and she was also present at our Sunday School Rally, June 27th to 29th last, and there delivered a splendid address. Her contacts with our work have been very friendly and helpful. She is admirably endowed and trained for the work she is doing.

The work is thoroughly organized in nine departments from "Beginners" to "Teacher Training." Some of our Icelandic Lutheran homes are already making use of this service, and a much larger number might and should make use of it.

This is just an introductory note. In our next issue we plan to give an outline of the complete course.

In the meantime, anyone interested may enroll by writing to:

**Lutheran Sunday School by Mail,
Lutheran College,
SASKATOON, Sask.**

When you write, give age and other useful information about prospective pupils.

WELCOME TO REV. AND MRS. EIRIKUR BRYNJOLFSSON

By JONAS T. JONASSON

The lower auditorium of the First Lutheran Church was crowded to overflowing after the evening service, Sunday, September 28th. The members of the congregation assembled to welcome Rev. and Mrs. Eirikur Brynjolfsson, who are here from Iceland on exchange of pastorates with Rev. V. J. Eylands. Community singing, in Icelandic and English, led by Mr. Paul Bardal, gave a friendly informal atmosphere to the gathering. Brief speeches of welcome to the visiting pastor and his family were given by Mr. Lincoln Johnson, president of the congregation, and Mr. Arni Eggertson, K.C., chairman of the board of deacons.

Rev. Brynjolfsson spoke of some of the experiences in this parish which were new to him, and in his delightfully pleasant manner gave us glimpses of a pastor's work in Iceland.

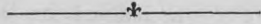
After the traditional cup of coffee, an enjoyable period was spent in greeting the new pastor, and chatting with friends.



PRESENTATION TO MRS. BRYNJOLFSSON

The Senior Ladies' Aid Society of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, along with some of their friends, sponsored a very happy gathering at the parsonage, Tuesday evening, Sept. 30th. About 75 women attended and one man, Pastor Brynjolfsson. The women did not have the heart to throw him out of the house, and truly they were very much the gainers by having him there. A lady was there from southern California and one from Victoria, B.C. They all came there actuated by same urge: love for Mrs. Brynjolfsson, and a desire to give some tangible expression to that warm-heartedness. There was much joyful community singing, led by Mr. Brynjolfsson, who is a fine leader. Mrs. B. B. Jonsson, president of the society, made the presentation of very suitable gifts. She spoke in a cheerful vein of the fine impression Mrs. Brynjolfsson had made on the people of the parish since coming here, with her kindness of heart and manner. The gifts expressed heartfelt wishes for a pleasant stay while sojourning here. The recipient voiced her gratitude in a modest, sincere, delightful way, and asked her husband to express her sentiments more fully. Mr. Brynjolfsson spoke in his inimitable pleasant way, which made everybody present more happy. He dwelt upon his long search for a wife, until he found what he liked, his happiness in his home, also the work

done by the women's organizations in his parish in Iceland, particularly in beautifying the churches. He expressed his wholehearted gratitude to the Ladies' Aid Society. Delicious refreshments were served. Mrs. Brynjolfsson asked all the ladies present to sign their names in a book she had for that purpose. She wants to take these names with her to Iceland.



LAKE MANITOBA

By REV. SKULI SIGURGEIRSON

By foregoing my holidays this year, I doubled them. "Impossible!" Not at all. The month of August, so graciously extended to me by my parish as my own time, was more profitably used than if I had appropriated it for leisure and pleasure.

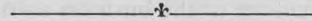
Having been asked by the Silver Bay Congregation to serve there for a month, I accordingly packed my bag at the end of July and left for Lake Manitoba. But before I make any direct reference to the pastoral work in this region, it may be well to offer a few explanatory words in regard to the different districts in this particular territory. The Silver Bay Post Office is ten miles west of Ashern, and about two miles to the south is the Lutheran Church that serves as the spiritual home of a congregation counting about seventy souls. This congregation owes its continued existence to the staunch Christian integrity of its lay leadership, as this house of worship has been without any regular pastoral care for many a long year. A dozen miles or so to the south is the Post Office of Oak View. The services for this district are held in the school; continuing south, we first come to the Hayland district and then to "Dog Creek" (Vogar P.O.), where is located a small but very becoming "Community" Church.

Cattle ranching and dairy farming are the main occupations throughout the whole of this territory. Judging from the many modern and beautiful homes, material well-being must be very general.

On the first Sunday in August two services were held: at Silver Bay and Oak View. On this day twelve children were baptized, six at the service in Silver Bay, three at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Davidson of Oak View, and three more children became members of the Christian family through holy baptism that same day, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. Sigurdson of Silver Bay. It was a glorious day, glorious for the children and glorious for the parents through their obedience to the Lord's command. It was a glorious day for God's earthly kingdom as every baptized child becomes visibly a potential

disciple of the risen Saviour. The average attendance at the seven services, held in the various districts, was very satisfactory. During the ten days that my wife was with me, we visited fifteen homes throughout the district. The visit of Mrs. Sigurgeirson had a two-fold purpose behind it: first, to become acquainted, and also to arrange for meetings in regard to the projected establishment of Sunday school work in the various districts already mentioned.

If I did not conclude these brief remarks with a word of thanks on behalf of my wife and myself for the hospitality we met with everywhere, I would actually be devaluating the sincere friendliness of good people and their voluntary efforts and co-operation in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.



THE THORLAKSSONS IN BERKLEY

The Rev. and Mrs. S. O. Thorlaksson, for a quarter of a century our missionaries in Japan, are now living in Berkley, California. Mrs. Thorlaksson met with an accident which made a cast necessary for a long time. The cast is now off, and she is progressing very favorably in her recovery. We extend to them and their family sincere well wishes in all things. They have been doing splendid work among the Icelandic people of the three neighboring cities: Berkley, Oakland and San Francisco, not the least among students from Iceland, both in a social and religious way. Mr. Thorlaksson has also been doing very fine work among Japanese people in those cities and elsewhere.

I reproduce a little flash of light from Mr. Thorlaksson in his garden, this being found in his news letter in "Logberg", September 11th, as follows:

"More than ever before in my life it has been my privilege to concern myself about first-hand picked fruit from our own fruit trees: apricots, plums, pears, etc. At the same time I have had more leisure to consider fruits of character as pointed out so often in the Scriptures, which says: 'By their fruits ye shall know them'. But more than ever have I been forcibly impressed by Paul's words to the Galatians (5:22,23): 'The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace; long suffering, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.' Mark well the word 'fruit' in the singular and then the enumeration of basic ingredients which go to make up our characters and individual differences."

May the blessing of God rest upon the fruitage of the lives of these missionaries, in Japan and in America.